



Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C.
20554

May 23, 2011

RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations (WT Docket No. 11-65).

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As manager of an electric cooperative that provides services to south and west central Alabama and board member of the Alabama Agribusiness Council, I understand the importance of improving broadband access in our rural areas. I have heard from countless farmers, processors, and small businesses about how much wireless access has economized the growing, transport and distribution of our state's food. In Alabama, more than 90 percent of new farmers and ranchers are using computers to track market information, maintain their balance sheets and monitor weather satellites, and 34 percent of young farmers use global positioning technology for precision agriculture, reducing both chemical use and costs while increasing yields. But at the same time the number of new farmers has declined and many small family farms are threatened by rising costs and diminishing food prices.

With the increased high-speed wireless coverage to more than 97 percent of Americans resulting from the AT&T merger with T-Mobile, more small family farms will be able to take advantage of the benefits of precision agriculture. By tracking products from harvesting on the farm to packaging in a plant to placement on the store shelf, businesses will be able to improve the flow of goods, saving money and delivering higher quality products. And with greater efficiency comes greater opportunity for growth and job creation.

I urge you to approve this merger, and give Alabama agribusiness workers the opportunities to continue the American tradition of innovation and excellence that has made the United States the leading producer of food stuffs in the world.

Sincerely,

Steve Harmon
Pioneer Electric Cooperative Manager
Alabama Agribusiness Board Member

CC:

Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker